

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	1. Changes in the Furlough System 2. Military Unit Examinations	DATE DISTR.	3 November 1955	
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1. The military furlough system was changed on 1 January 1955. Prior to that date, troops received furloughs only after two years of service. Exceptions were made only in case of an emergency or as a reward for good performance of duty. After 1 January troops had the right to a 17-day furlough per year. This does not apply to troops in stockades. A soldier may be deprived of his yearly furlough only by an order from the Minister of People's Defense. If a soldier wishes to take leave to help in the harvest at home, he is authorized to do so provided he has been in the service not less than 3 months.
2. Each unit is given two examinations per year by military inspectors. One examination is given in March or early April and the other at the end of September. One month prior to the examination, troops are given intensive training. The examinations, given by five to six unattached Bulgarian officers accompanied by a Soviet officer, last one or two weeks. Examinations are given to platoons and companies, but not to battalions and regiments as a whole. The Soviet officer does not participate in the examination itself, but is only an observer. Troops are examined in the following subjects:
  - a. Political Training : Troops are asked questions about socialist construction, biographies of noted Communists, etc. The answers are recorded by the examiners and checked by the Soviet officer.
  - b. Physical Training: This examination is conducted by a company officer in the presence of one of the examiners.
  - c. Cover and Concealment, etc.: This examination is also given by company officers in the presence of the examiners.
  - d. Tactical Training: This is a field examination for the company as a whole. The examination consists of a simulated night skirmish between fully armed friendly and enemy troops. The weapons used include rifles, submachine guns, and light and heavy machine guns. Troops use wooden ammunition and

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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wear gas masks. The examination lasts from 1½ to 2 hours. Attack signals are made with red rocket flares and stop signals with green flares.

- e. Close Order Drill: This examination is carried out by a company officer in the presence of an examiner.
- f. Nomenclature of Weapons: Troops are examined individually.
- g. Combat Readiness: The bag of each soldier is examined and it must contain the following items:
  - (1) 6 needles
  - (2) Black and white thread
  - (3) Buttons
  - (4) Brush and tooth paste
  - (5) Shoe polish and brushes
  - (6) Handkerchief (one)
  - (7) Towel (one)
  - (8) Underwear (one pair)
  - (9) 12 rags and grease
  - (10) 12 ten-centimeter sticks
  - (11) Shaving equipment: razor, brush, soap, and eight blades
  - (12) Wrap-arounds (one pair)
  - (13) Band-aids
  - (14) Ointment for blisters
  - (15) One pencil, ten envelopes, and writing paper
  - (16) Collars (six)
  - (17) Spoon (one)
  - (18) Rags for cleaning rifle
  - (19) Sweater (one)

The following items are also checked:

- (1) Canteen
  - (2) Gas mask
  - (3) Shovel or entrenching tool
  - (4) Neatness of uniform
  - (5) Personal appearance
  - (6) Needles on cap
  - (7) Cartridge belt
- h. Firing Weapons: This examination is conducted on the firing range. Troops fire four rounds with rifles from a distance of 200 meters, four rounds from a distance of 500 meters at a moving target in seven second intervals, and four rounds from a distance of 200 meters in prone position at a stationary target. The Vintovka is a more accurate weapon than the Manlicher rifle. Firing is also done with submachine guns and light and heavy machine guns.

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